



COLONNADE

The Official Student Newspaper of Georgia College



X AMBASSADORS draw Homecoming crowd

See page 12 for more details.

Photo by Ada Montgomery / Senior Photographer

Homecoming Court election recap, pg. 3



Students take on Homecoming, pg. 14

Bobcats fall to Clayton State, pg. 7





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About This Issue...

The News section contains a Q&A with the GC Homecoming Court, old and new perspectives on Homecoming week events, and an overview of the newly elected SGA executive board's plans and goals.

The Sports section this week contains a recap of both the men's and women's Homecoming basketball games. It also contains a story about this year's GC Hall of Fame Induction.

The A&E section features a review of the Taste of Milledgeville, student opinions on the Homecoming concert and a sit-down Q&A with headliner X Ambassadors.

Join us for pitch on Monday nights at 6:30 in The Colonnade office, located in MSU 128.

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Volume 93
No. 17

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Homecoming court responds to election day

Will Anderson
 and
 Wellsley Kesel
 @gcsunade

The Colonnade sat down with the newly elected Homecoming court to talk about their election day emotions. Emmie Meadows won Homecoming Queen, Cameron Arceneaux won Homecoming King, Avery Smith won Homecoming Duchess and Jackson Welch won Homecoming Duke.

Q: How does it feel to be elected?

Emmie Meadows: I'm shocked and incredibly excited!

Cameron Arceneaux: I am incredibly honored and honestly still in shock that the GC community found me to be the best representative for Homecoming King. The feeling is pretty much indescribable.

Jackson Welch: It feels really great to be recognized by all my peers and fellow students. It's just cool to get your name out there and all kind of come together and say, hey we like this guy.

Avery Smith: It feels amazing. I never in my wildest dreams expected this, so it's a wonderful surprise and it just makes me so thankful for the girls in my sorority that have been supporting this for the past few weeks.

Q: What did it take to get to this point?

Emmie Meadows: It took blood, sweat and tears. Though we as a sisterhood have been working on the campaign for about three weeks, our VP-Public Relations, Rachel Pope, and her assistants have been working on this event for much longer. We tabled for two weeks and had events leading up to Homecoming as well.

Cameron Arceneaux: It took a lot to win this election. My campaign team and I tabled every day leading up to the end of voting. We pulled out all the stops by making a video, t-shirts, buttons, flyers and even a Snapchat filter!

Avery Smith: It took a lot of preparation, campaigning, a lot of hours on everyone's part. Every girl had to be included in this campaign, so we all came together for this, and it was a lot, but I'm just so thankful.

Jackson Welch: A lot of loving friends. Just a great group of guys. ATO has really helped me out.

Q: What causes or organizations do you support?

Emmie Meadows: Because I want to teach high school, I enjoy working with that age group. I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to do just that through working with the Higher Achievers Program, which is an organization that teaches high school students about leadership. I was involved in Bobcats Against Hunger my sophomore year. I also play doubles for the GC Club Tennis team, I write for the Odyssey Online and I'm in the Order of Omega.

Cameron Arceneaux: I fully support the Georgia College Club Tennis Team! They were nice enough to endorse me and be there for me the entirety of the election.

Avery Smith: KD supports PCAA, which is Prevent Child Abuse America. The cool thing about our campaign this year was that we did Homecoming for Hunger, so we did a canned food drive and used our platform of Homecoming to give back to Baldwin County. We collected so many cans and were able to use this to make the community better.

Jackson Welch: ATO, definitely, and all my brothers sticking their necks out for me.

Q: What impact do you think this is going to have on the spring semester for each of you?

Emmie Meadows: Honestly, Homecoming in its entirety has made me fall in love with Kappa Delta all over again. If anything, it's given me a new appreciation for the sisters that I already loved. It's also given me the chance to meet numerous new people, so I'm looking forward to continuing those new friendships.

Cameron Arceneaux: I think one way it will affect my semester is being so heavily recognized around the community. In just a few hours, random people followed some of my social medias and even came up to me just to say hi and congratulations. It's been fun.

Avery Smith: It makes me realize the influence I have, the influence to shine a light to my sorority, to shine a light to my peers at Georgia College.

Jackson Welch: It's definitely giving ATO a better name, we are a new fraternity still trying to be chartered. Just trying to make our name as a group of guys, so I think this speaks volumes for our fraternity as a whole.



GC President Steve Dorman crowns the homecoming court victors at the men's homecoming basketball game on Feb. 18.

Ada Montgomery / Senior Photographer

Homecoming first-timers share fresh views...

Gioia
Brust
@gcsunade

This year, GC's Homecoming festivities contained the same schedule of festivities as every other year: the Homecoming concert, Tent City, alumni functions and the men's and women's basketball games. But what do these events look like through the eyes of a first-time attendee?

This year's concert lineup consisted of Family and Friends, Hoodie Allen and the X Ambassadors. Hundreds attended the concert, which was held at the Centennial Center.

Junior Austin Taunton, an exercise science major, said that as a new transfer to campus, this was his first GC Homecoming concert.

"It was insane, especially for the price," Taunton said. "I just wish that I was closer [to the performers]."

Taunton arrived just in time to see the X Ambassadors, but he said even though he came late, he had a great time.

Many GC alumni and even attendees from other schools come to GC every year to see the Homecoming performers, so at Friday night's concert, the Centennial Center hosted a wide range of different people and age groups.

Freshman Isabella DiCristina, a pre-nursing major, said this year was her first time attending GC's Homecoming parade.

"It was a fun event to be [participating with] the community," DiCristina said. "And the floats were awesome."

Along with the rest of her Alpha

Omicron Pi sisters, DiCristina cheered on her sorority's Homecoming nominees with red and white pom-poms and matching t-shirts.

Tent City is another popular Homecoming week event, where many organizations set up tents, make and hand out food and tailgate the basketball game.

Sophomore Quinn Rafferty, a pre-nursing nursing major, attended Tent City for the first time this year.

Rafferty said that even though it was raining on Saturday, she still came out to see what Tent City was all about.

"Honestly, given the weather, it wasn't all that spectacular," Rafferty said. "I pretty much went for the food and to see just what it entailed, since I had no idea what to really expect."

Rafferty said she would have changed the weather if she could and wished to see more activities at Tent City.

Sophomore Katherine Delosantos, a biology pre-med major, went to the men's Homecoming basketball game for the first time. She cheered for GC with her sorority sisters and waited to hear the results of the homecoming court.

"I walked in and was completely overwhelmed with the amount of people there," Delosantos said. "I knew I should've expected it, but seeing all the stands filled up just to watch the game was great."

Although her sorority's candidates lost the duchess and queen elections, Delosantos said she looks forward to being a part of the festivities again.

"Definitely a great weekend," Delosantos said.

...And veteran homecomers sound off on the week's events

Compiled by Maddy Stone

"My personal favorite is the Homecoming concert, of course. It's always exciting to see big names come to our small town and perform their music." -- Eduardo Granados, master's student in human performance

"Tent City is definitely my all-time favorite tradition, with lots of Bobcat pride that day. I love coming together and tailgating with friends while supporting our team. I wish it was the kind of event we did at least once a month." -- Tori Gleeson, senior and mass communication major

"I enjoy Homecoming week as a whole. It is encouraging to experience the more creative, advocating sides of campus organizations. It reminds me of how inclusive and passionate our student body is." -- Mary Lyn Stegall, senior and psychology major



Gioia Brust / Staff Photographer

Isabella DiCristina and her Alpha Omicron Pi sisters cheer on their Homecoming court nominees on Feb. 18 at the Homecoming parade.



Gioia Brust / Staff Photographer

Austin Taunton, a new transfer to GC this year, rocks out at GC's Homecoming concert for the first time.

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SGA announces executive election results

Gabrielle Schwobe
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The Student Government Association (SGA) announced the results of its executive board elections.

Mike Muller is the new president-elect, Matt Jones is the Vice President-elect, Sarah Smith is the treasurer-elect and Kenneth Adams is the secretary-elect.

The winners of the 2017 elections spent months campaigning and building their following and support.

“Better communication between the student body and the school is my biggest goal, my job as president is to represent the students of Georgia College so their opinions and ideas are heard,” Muller said. “SGA is a service organization and I am here to serve.”

Muller said he is focused on fixing specific issues that students have voiced to SGA over the past couple of years, including the lack of sufficient parking and the need for expanded library hours.

As a part of GC’s Homecoming festivities, the Student

Matt Jones said he hopes to spotlight issues such as sexual assault awareness he says are not only important to Georgia College, but also universities across the country. He said he hopes to begin this effort with the new senate.

“As VP I am the leader of all the senators,” Jones said. “I really want to encourage them to represent the student body and be a more active bystander so we can make this a safer campus.”

Georgia College’s president-elect and vice president-elect may not have run together, but the two are excited and eager to work together.

“Matt and I have worked on a couple of committees together over the past year, so we know each other well,” Muller said. “He is a good leader and really smart. We see eye to eye on a lot of issues and ideas.”

Matt Jones seems to be just as confident in their future success together.

“I’m excited, because we are all really competitive and smart individuals,” Jones said. “I think Mike is going to do a really great job.”

Not only does the Vice President feel confident in Georgia College’s new president, many of his fellow students think he was the best choice candidate.

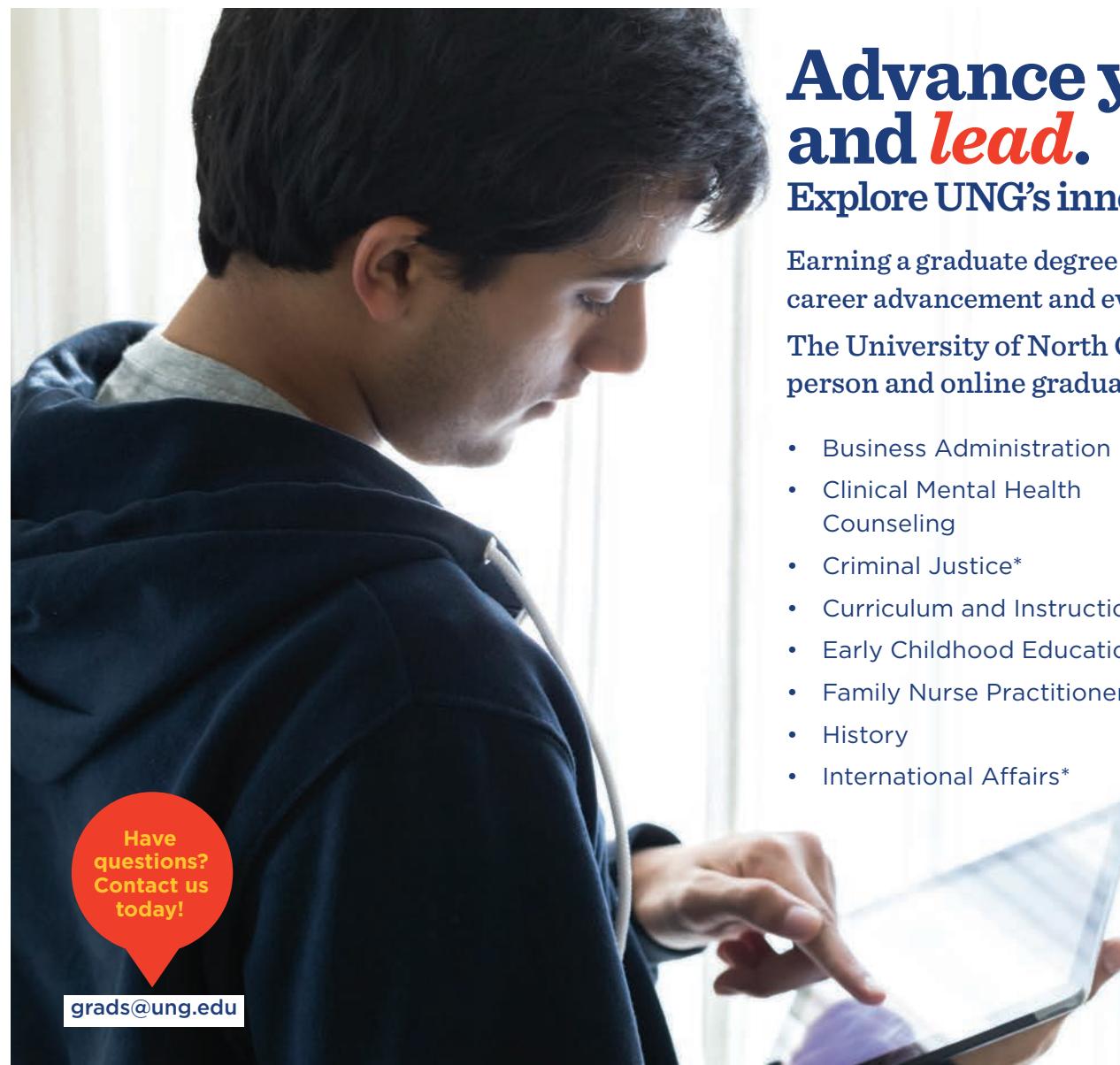
“I’ve always admired Mike and his ability to know right from wrong. He

stands up for what he believes in. He is the best for this position because he truly cares about our students and he will always put us first.” Lauren Cryder, a senior, SGA cabinet member, and director of sorority and fraternity affairs.



Ada Montgomery / Senior Photographer

The winners of the SGA elections were announced on Feb. 18 at the men’s homecoming basketball game.



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Career Info Table

Wed. Feb. 22 @ 11 a.m.

A&S Lobby

Career center staff will be available in the Arts & Sciences atrium to provide career information and counseling. All students are welcome.



Concert: Milly Melodies

Fri. Feb. 24 @ 7:30 p.m.

Magnolia Ballroom

This a capella concert, starring The Cat's Meow UGA Noteworthy from the University of Georgia and the Mercer Bearitones from Mercer University, will feature many different styles of music, including R&B and TV themes.



GC Faculty and Staff

Canoe Trip

Sat. Feb. 25 @ 8 a.m.

George L. Smith State Park

This two-day adventure will explore the cypress trees in George L. Smith State Park in Twin City, Georgia.

This Week

Musical: "American Idiot"

This rock opera production showcasing music from punk rock group Green Day will be playing at the Russell Auditorium from Feb. 21 to Feb. 25, with shows at 8 p.m. each evening. This show is for mature audiences only. Tickets are \$7 for students, \$12 for senior citizens, non-GC students, GC faculty and GC staff, and \$ for general admission.

For more information, visit frontpage.gcsu.edu.



Busted

Date: Feb. 13

Case: A GC residence hall community advisor (CA) called public safety with concerns about a room smelling like marijuana. The CA, who was notified by a dorm resident, located the suspected room and took Sergeant Baker to it. Sergeant Baker knocked on the door, and the resident opened it and consented to a room search. Inside, three empty cans of beer, two full cans of beer, one empty beer bottle and one almost empty bottle of whiskey were found, but no marijuana was found. Sergeant Baker explained to the resident that he would not be given a ticket for the alcohol because the search was initiated because of suspected marijuana use. Both residents of the dorm were referred to Student Judicial for liquor law violations.

Drunk at centennial

Date: Feb. 13

Case: Officer Powell was dispatched to the Centennial Center in reference to a call concerning a drunk man allegedly hitting another person. After making contact with the man in question, Officer Powell learned that the man was trying to get away from his cheerleading teammates. The man also denied hitting anyone. Officer Powell could smell alcohol coming from the man's breath, and he registered a .176 Brac on the breath test. The person allegedly hit was not located by public safety. The man was placed under arrest and transported to the Milledgeville jail, where he was issued citations for public drunkenness and the underage possession of alcohol. The case has been referred to Student Judicial.

A hit or miss?

Date: Feb. 14

Case: Public safety received a report of a witnessed hit-and-run in a GC parking lot. Officer Purvis responded to the call and located both vehicles. The unattended one that was reportedly hit showed signs of damage on the passenger-side front bumper, and the vehicle seen hitting the parked vehicle was parked across the street. Officer Purvis was unable to locate the vehicle owners and left notices on the windshield for them to call. When the owner of the vehicle that was hit called, Officer Purvis met her at the scene. While there, the other vehicle owner returned to her car. When approached by the officer, she explained that she did not know for sure that she had hit the parked car but thought she might have. Officer Purvis issued the woman a citation for failure to report striking an unattended vehicle.

Driving drunk

Date: Feb. 17

Case: A SNAP officer requested the assistance of public safety when he noticed a person recklessly driving through the parking lot of the Grove apartments. When Officer Woodall arrived at the parking lot, he found the driver sitting in the vehicle with his seatbelt on and the car in reverse. The driver denied driving the vehicle and stated that he had been sitting in his car because he lost track of his friends while when they were downtown. He admitted to having consumed alcohol that night. The SNAP officer told Officer Woodall that he witnessed the man driving, and that he approached the vehicle when it stopped to check on the driver, finding him passed out behind the wheel. A field sobriety test was conducted on the driver, which he struggled to complete, and he registered a .133 Brac on the breath test. The man was placed under arrest for driving under the influence and for the underage possession of alcohol.



Ada Montgomery / Senior Photographer

Redshirt sophomore Chaz Berry goes up for a layup, as sophomore Isaac Thomas boxes out a defender in the Bobcats' 69-65 loss.

Men's Basketball falls to Clayton State 69-65

Ben
 Lord
 @gcsunade

The highly anticipated Homecoming basketball game occurred this past weekend as GC students filled the Centennial Center to cheer on the Bobcats, who faced the Clayton State University Lakers.

Every stand was filled to the brim, with thousands of Bobcat students and few empty seats in sight as the referee threw the ball up for tip-off. Screaming fans jumped to their feet and the game commenced.

Forward Isaac Thomas, a sophomore and accounting major, only sat out of the game for seven minutes, contributing 12 points and six rebounds. Thomas said the huge crowd pumped the team up before the game started.

"The atmosphere was buzzing during warm-ups," Thomas said. "It gave us a lot of energy going into the game."

The Bobcats came out fast, starting with a 4-1 lead in the first two minutes off of Thomas's free throws and freshman Kohl Roberts' two-point jump shot. Both teams battled back and forth, and the Bobcats led the Lakers 20-14 with eight minutes left.

GC had the biggest lead of the half, as they led by nine at one point. However, the Lakers had tied up the score with just a few seconds left in the first half before redshirt junior Mark McCorkle hit a half-court buzzer-beater to give the Bobcats a 34-31 lead at halftime.

"We didn't let the crowd affect our game plan," said forward Chaz Berry, a redshirt sophomore. "We made sure to stay concentrated and not get rattled."

The second half started well for the Bobcats as they went up by five, but their shooting hit a drought, and the Lakers were able to take the lead with thirteen minutes left in the game.

Clayton State led for the remainder of



Ada Montgomery / Senior Photographer

the second half, as the Bobcats climbed their way slowly back into the game and came within two points of tying the game up with 28 seconds left on the clock.

Many Bobcat students bit their nails as they nervously watched the last few minutes of the game. Unfortunately, the Bobcats made some crucial mistakes, and the Lakers were able to hang onto their lead and win the game, 69-65. The Bobcats

fought hard throughout the second half, but were unable to overcome the deficit.

The GC men's team will have a few days before their next opponent, Lander University, this Wednesday as they will try to win to secure a playoff spot in the postseason.

"We aren't going to let the loss affect us negatively," Berry said. "We still have a chance. We just need to stay focused."

GC inducts new members into Hall of Fame



Ashley Cooper / Staff Photographer

The 1981 NAIA National Colonial Gymnastics Team (from left: Connie Brock, Jannelle Tucker, Karen Martin Thompson, Margarita Portilla, Kevonne Stouder McKinney) receive their Hall of Fame plaques, introduced by Coach Geza Martiny.

Kellie
Murphy
@gesunade

Last Friday, three former Bobcats were inducted into GC Athletics' Hall of Fame. Keidra (Baitey) Ward was inducted for softball, Janelle Tucker for gymnastics and Floyd Anderson for administration.

"I would not be where I'm at without Georgia College or gymnastics," Tucker said. "It has made me the person I am today."

The GC gymnastics coach saw potential in Tucker when she was in the 11th grade. Skipping her senior year of high school, Tucker headed to Milledgeville to start her college gymnastics career.

Tucker said she was proud of being inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Anderson has served the Bobcats in many ways. He served as the athletic director for 17 years, the chairman of physical

"I would not be where I'm at without Georgia College or gymnastics. It has made me the person I am today."

*Janelle Tucker,
Gymnastics*

education and the school's baseball coach. By the time he retired in 1989, he had given GC almost 20 years of his life.

"Give the most and

you will get the most," Anderson said. "And it will pay off in the future."

The last inductee of the night was Ward, who graduated from GC only eight years ago. She played softball with the Bobcats for two years, and was the youngest inductee of the night.

"This is amazing," Ward said. "It is the only way I can describe it."

Playing softball year-round for almost her whole life, Ward said that hard work will always pay off. For her to get to the point of being named to the Hall of Fame, she said it took different coaches, travel ball and the support of her parents.

These three Bobcats will forever be a part of Georgia College Athletics.

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 cindy.bowen@gcsu.edu

 (478) 445-7177

Women's basketball loses in final seconds

Dallas Fletcher
@gcsunade

The GC women's basketball team hosted the Clayton State Lakers on Feb. 18 for GC's Homecoming game. The Bobcats put up a fight, but they fell short to the visiting Lakers by a final score of 57-55.

"The Homecoming spirit of Georgia College is just such a great atmosphere. I think we are one of the best in all of the Peach Belt, as far as Homecoming spirit," said head women's basketball coach Maurice Smith. "We appreciated the support and the spirit. You could really tell our players thrived off of it which is really good."

The back-and-forth game kept the thousands of fans that filled the stands on the edge of their seats. The fan's excitement and Homecoming spirit kept the energy in the gym roaring.

"Sitting there on the bench and being on the court, hearing the fans yelling 'Defense' was really cool," said senior Christina



Guard Veronica Ryan, a senior, shoots a free throw.



Ada Montgomery / Senior Photographer

Forward Ta'Asia Wright shoots a mid-range jump shot. Wright totaled eight rebounds in the 57-55 loss.

Thomas, a psychology and criminal justice double major.

Sophomore Shay Tarver, a biology major, agreed. "It made the game a lot better for us. It gave us a lot more drive and energy on the court."

The Bobcats had the lead going into halftime but struggled in the second half as the Lakers scored 21 points to the Bobcats' 12. Junior Alyah McGriff tied the game back up with 20 seconds left with a jump shot, but the Lakers stole the lead and the game with a layup with 1.4 seconds left.

"It was a back-and-forth game with two hard-hitting teams. It's unfortunate someone had to lose that one because both teams really played hard all the way to the end," said coach Smith.

The team's strategy for this game was to play full force for the entire game and keep points off the board.

"Our plan was to zone them and we did that," Thomas said. "I think we executed

our strategy very well. We kept their best players at a minimum of points."

McGriff led the Bobcats with 17 points, followed by junior Brianna Davis with 12 points. Sophomore Sydney Cleveland led the team in rebounds with nine, and Tarver led the team with four assists.

"I feel confident about the rest of the season. It was a tough loss but I feel we did everything we could do."

*Dail Adaway,
Forward*

Coach Smith said he is extremely proud of how the team played overall, especially playing so well against a really good team like Clayton State.

"This was a good step towards the rest of the season," Tarver said. "Even though it came down to a last second shot, the energy we had the whole game was a positive,

even though we lost. It's a teaching moment and it will make us go harder for the next game."

Forward Dail Adaway, a freshman, agreed. "I feel confident about the rest of the season. It was a tough loss but I feel we did everything we could do."

This heartbreak loss put the Lady Bobcats 9-9 in conference play and 15-10 overall for the season, which puts them in a playoff spot with one regular season game remaining.

"I feel good about the rest of the season. We're looking pretty good going into tournament play, we pretty much solidified," Thomas said. "Essentially it's 0-0 from here on out. Our record is erased, so it's win or go home."

On Feb. 22, the Bobcats will travel to Lander University in Greenwood, S.C., to take on the Bearcats to conclude their regular season play.

TASTE OF MILLEDGEVILLE

GC ALUMNI CHOW DOWN ON LOCAL FAVORITES

Amy
Huang
[@gcsunade](https://twitter.com/gcsunade)

The Homecoming festivities attracted a large number of GC alumni back to Milledgeville this past weekend.

Following the usual homecoming activities, including the homecoming concert, tent city and the home basketball games, a new event was added: Taste of Milledgeville.

The event took place on Saturday from 8-10 p.m., and was hosted by the Young Alumni Council.

Taste of Milledgeville invited alumni and guests onto GC's very own Front Campus, where restaurants could showcase their signature dishes.

Participating restaurants and vendors included Amici, The Brick, Buffington's, The Green Market, Gringos, Metropolis and Sodexo.

Purchasing a \$15 ticket got attendees a small sample from each restaurant, along with two drink tickets.

Alumni, guests and restaurants were excited to be back in one spot for this occasion.

"I'm excited to see what people think of the food. They know who we are and have been to the Brick before," said the Brick.

Alumni agreed their favorite part of the event was being able to taste some of their favorite restaurants all in one place.

"I love coming back and having my favorite restaurants in one location," said Lisa Kirksey, a 2011 GC alum. "Amici was my favorite and I went there weekly."

The idea for Taste of Milledgeville stemmed from an alumni council meeting that took place back in the fall. The council wanted to take advantage of the few hours after the basketball games where there was little to do in order to keep alumni and guests in Milledgeville.

From there, the idea for Taste of Milledgeville was introduced.

"Every time alumni come to town, there is always somewhere they need to go eat, whether it's stuffed sticks from the Brick or a taco from Gringos. We wanted to capitalize on that in order to keep people around," said Emily Saunders, assistant director of alumni engagement.

However, it was not just the food that kept alumni around. It was the nostalgia of being back in Milledgeville and reminiscing on memories as a Bobcat.

"It's always good to be back," said Josie Smith, a 2013 GC alum. "We love the campus and being back always feels magical."

Another alum said that having the event right on top of the Bobcat Head on Front Campus also brought back a lot of memories.

"It feels like coming back home, except now I'm no longer a student, but an adult," said Leona Gray, 2004 GC alum.

The event was a great way to close off homecoming and bid farewell to alumni until the next homecoming.

"We all connect with Milledgeville because we enjoy the fact that you have that nostalgic feeling being back," said Patrick Gambel, 2011 GC alum. "Unfortunately, you can't have all your friends here, but it's nice to see all my fellow alumni, eating our favorite food and seeing the bobcat pride."



Mary Kate Conner/Staff Photographer
GC alumni catch up and sample the best from their favorite Milledgeville restaurants.



“Dragons, because I like dragons and they are badass.”

-Jarrett North, junior, accounting major



“Ferocious little puppies, because they are adorable.”

- Miranda Posey, senior and special education major



“Wolverines, because they are cool.”

-Harrison Savignano, sophomore, management major



“I wouldn’t change it, because I don’t know a lot of other schools that have a cat as a mascot.”

-Ashlynne Chadwick, senior and psychology major



Q: If you could change the school mascot, what would it be?

Compiled by Amy Huang



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X MARKS THE SPOT AT HOMECOMING

Amy
Strang
@gcsunade

This weekend, students flocked to the Centennial Center for GC's annual homecoming concert. The lineup this year featured indie-rock band Family and Friends, rapper Hoodie Allen and alternative group X Ambassadors.

Student reactions to this year's lineup were mixed.

Sophomore pre-nursing major Hailey Lawson said she liked this year's lineup much more than last year's.

"Unlike my freshman year, I actually knew most of the songs, which made the concert much more entertaining," Lawson said.

Lawson said her favorite act was the X Ambassadors because they brought a commanding energy to the stage.

The group performed their crowd-pleasing hits for the massive group of students and Lawson said her favorite

performance of theirs was "Unsteady."

"I am sure this was a highlight for most of the crowd because the audience was heard more than the band," said Lawson.

Junior marketing major Mark Fisher said he liked the bands in the lineup, but that the artists did not complement each other.

"The artists were stronger artists, but I think as a whole they didn't go well together," said Fisher.

Fisher said the lineup could have been better, but that it was better than his first homecoming concert at GC in 2015. However, he enjoyed last year's concert the most. For him, this year's standout act was Hoodie Allen.

"I have always been a fan, and it was good to see him live," said Fisher.

Senior community health major Christal Reincher said she found the lineup a bit overrated. "Though I enjoyed

the concert, I do believe we might have bitten off more than we could chew, since we didn't sell out of tickets this year," said Reincher.

Reincher said that even though she had fun at the concert, she felt this year's artists did not reach a wide enough demographic, and hopes that in the future the lineup will cater to more than just one audience.

The act that stood out the most to Reincher was Family and Friends. "They put a lot into their performances and are true musicians and entertainers," Reincher said. "They are a Milledgeville classic."

Though the student response was mixed, the groups certainly gained some new fans this weekend.

"I would give time to listen to any of these artists in the future," Lawson said. "Last year I just nodded my head and stayed for the experience. This year I stayed because I was enjoying the lineup."



Mary Kate Conner/Staff Photographer
Students have mixed reviews about this year's homecoming concert. However, many agreed that it was a diverse lineup.

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Q&A with X Ambassadors

Student Media: How have your hometowns of Ithaca and LA affected your music or sound?

Sam Nelson Harris: I think Ithaca felt very isolated, although it's a very eclectic and beautiful small town, so it is connected to the world but it's also its own little bubble. That allowed us to really focus on sounds that were so specific to us and unique to where we were. We weren't getting muddled with other influences, because we just weren't exposed to all the incredible music that was going on outside of our small town. So when we moved to New York City and met Adam [Levin], there was this rush of information, and we were trying on different costumes every week. And eventually we went back to our roots of who we are. And we wanted to make music that reached out to the world from where we were in this tiny bubble. We wanted so badly to connect with people, so we had to be very distinct in order to cut through the noise.

Media: What's your biggest career or personal success?

Casey Harris: Honestly for me, the biggest personal success was actually going back and playing our hometown of Ithaca. We did that just last summer and it was just a super powerful experience. All our old friends and people we knew were there and also a ton of people we didn't know, it was crazy. It was just a wild experience. It was also at the State Theater, which is basically the only place where I saw bands when I was growing up. It was honor to be playing there, and it was just so cool playing for Ithaca.

Media: Besides music, what's really important to you right now?

SNH: Sticking up for people who feel disenfranchised and

who feel vulnerable. This is a really tumultuous, crazy time in our world and in this country, and there are a lot of people who are scared, who are afraid and who feel like their rights are being stripped away. And, look, communication is a very big thing, that's what we do as musicians, but first and foremost, it's about protecting those people who feel in danger or who feel afraid. That's the biggest thing.

Media: Have y'all done anything for that?

SNH: We actually are getting ready to release a song that will be a benefit for the ACLU. We are also playing a small benefit show on March 7th in LA for Planned Parenthood around National Women's Day. And at the very basic level, trying to be unafraid to voice our opinions on social media. A lot of artists get very weird about that because you don't want to alienate anybody or alienate fans, but you also have to speak your mind and you owe it to those people who want you to say something, who need comfort. You owe it to those people to say, "Hey, I'm with you. I got your back."

Media: What advice would you give to students at GC who are interested in pursuing music or other creative passions?

SNH: The coolest thing about the world we're living in now is that you can make stuff so easily and put it out in the world so easily. Make stuff with your friends, get a group of people together who have similar tastes, or you trust their taste and try to make something. If you like music and you like good songs, I guarantee you will surprise yourself with what you are able to do.

CH: And I think for us, persistence has been a huge part

of it. Just keep going, keep on creating, keep playing even when we couldn't pay the rent, even when we'd go through patches of thinking everything we wrote was terrible. You just gotta keep going.

SNH: Yeah, persistence and volume. You gotta keep creating stuff, because you never know what people are going to gravitate to.

Media: What has been your biggest letdown and your highest high?

SNH: There's been so many letdowns. That's just the nature of the beast.

Adam Levin: They all came in the early days, the letdowns. We released our first EP on a major label, and when you're a new band on a major label, you keep releasing EPs until something hits and then you put out your album. So we put out our first EP, and the single went to radio but didn't really do well. So we put out a second EP, and I remember we were at the first arena show we ever played, with Imagine Dragons, and the radio person told us that they weren't going to push anything through to radio. "Unsteady" was on that EP. It went to radio two years later.

SNH: The biggest high was finally realizing that the only thing we can do, the only thing we have power over is creating music, creating more content and focusing on making it something that we are proud of and the best it can possibly be in our minds. That's it. That's all you have, so that realization was a total high, and it's something you have to continually rediscover.

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